metropolis has become poisonous due to the pollution caused by the growing use of air-conditioning equipments and motor vehicles;

(b) if so, the policy being adopted by Government to provide relief to the public from this problem;

(c) whether it is also a fact that even the trees being planted are affected by pollution; and

(d) if so, whether Government would give thrust to planting such trees which absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The air pollution load in metropolitan cities is mainly due to vehicular emissions. Only very small amount is attributed to domestic equipments, including air-conditioners. A comprehensive Policy for Abatement of Pollution has been formulated which lays stress on both the control and preventive aspects of pollution.

(c) and (d) Certain plant species which are very sensitive to specific pollutants do get adversely affected. A project "Green Belt for Abatement of Pollution and Environment Improvement" has been launched. The Central Pollution Control Board has brought out the guidelines for developing the green belt in urban areas.

Publicity to notifications for reservation/de-reservation of forests

957. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that notifications issued by Government for reservation and de-reservation of forest areas from time to time are not brought to the notice of the general public through media publicity;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what is Government's programme for rehabilitation of people and the industry affected, by declaring reserve forests in metropolitan cities;

(d) whether Government are considering to grant concessions before or after implementation of the Forest Act, in areas where industry was already functioning; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, the power for reservation and de-reservation of forest areas vests with the State Government. As per the provisions of the Act, the notification for declaration of reserved/de-reserved forest is published in the official Gazette. Thereafter, the translation of the notification of reserved forest in local vernacular is caused to be published in every town and village in the neighbourhood of the forest.

(c) and (d) Under section 4 to 20 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, a detailed procedure has been laid out for preferment, enquiry and settlement of rights & claims, before an area is finally notified as reserved forest.

(d) Does not arise.

Vehicular pollution in Delhi

958. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that vehicular pollution is going on unabated in Delhi, despite introducing CNG;

(b) whether it is a fact that vehicular pollution in Delhi has increased from 64 per cent to 72 per cent in the past ten years, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 27th December, 2001; and

(c) if so, what preventive measures Government have taken so far to check vehicular pollution, in view of the fact that the number of vehicles in Delhi is likely to increase further in 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the ambient air quality trends in Delhi indicate the increase in Sulphur dioxide (SO_2), Nitrogen dioxide